

Message Text

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ACTION CU-03

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5637
AMEMBASSY ROME

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STATE FOR CU/ARTS

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: OEXC, PL
SUBJECT: LOS ANGELES PHILHARMONIC ORCHESTRA (LAPO)

1. WE MET WITH JAN WYGANOWSKI, CHARTER MANAGER FOR THE POLISH NATIONAL AIRLINES (LOT), CONCERNING THE NOVEMBER 28 LAPO FLIGHT FROM WARSAW TO ROME. WYGANOWSKI, WHO REQUESTED THIS MEETING, SAID THAT THE INSTRUCTIONS WHICH LOT RECEIVED FROM THE EMBASSY CONCERNING THE WEIGHT AND VOLUME OF THE INSTRUMENTS AND ACCOMPANIED BAGGAGE FOR THE LAPO HAD BEEN INCOMPLETE. THERE WAS APPROXIMATELY 25 PER CENT MORE ACCOMPANIED BAGGAGE THAN ANTICIPATED, AND THERE WERE NO SPECIAL INSTRUCTIONS THAT SOME OF THE INSTRUMENTS HAD TO STAND UPRIGHT WHEN LOADED ON THE AIRCRAFT AND THAT SOME OF THE INSTRUMENT CASES COULD NOT BE STACKED. AS A RESULT, THE LAPO AND ITS ACCOMPANIED BAGGAGE AND INSTRUMENTS COULD NOT BE TRANSPORTED ON ONE IL-62 AIRCRAFT EVEN THOUGH THE WEIGHT AND VOLUME MEASUREMENTS SUPPLIED BY THE EMBASSY WERE NOT EXCESSIVE FOR ONE SUCH AIRCRAFT.

2. WYGANOWSKI SAID THAT LOT WOULD SUBMIT A BILL FOR AN ADDITIONAL DOLLARS, 5,000 TO AGENZIA VIAGGIARO, VIA SAN
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NICOLA DA TOLENTINO 18, ROME, FOR THE EXTRA IL-18 AIRCRAFT WHICH WAS USED ON NOVEMBER 28 FOR THE CARGO FLIGHT FROM WARSAW TO ROME. HE WILL PROVIDE THE EMBASSY WITH A CARBON COPY OF THIS BILL AND A LETTER OUTLINING LOT'S POSITION IN DETAIL CONCERNING THIS PROBLEM.

3. NO MENTION WAS MADE OF EXTRA PAYMENT FOR THE TRANSPORTATION OF THE LAPO FROM BUDAPEST TO WARSAW. LOT USED THREE AIRCRAFT FOR THIS TRANSPORTATION, ONE IL-62, ONE IL-18, AND AN ADDITIONAL MILITARY FLIGHT. LOT OFFICIALS WERE MOST EMBARRASSED BY THE CONDITIONS UNDER WHICH THE IL-62 FLIGHT TO WARSAW TOOK PLACE IN THE EARLY MORNING HOURS OF NOVEMBER 25, AND WE DO NOT EXPECT THEM TO ASK FOR EXTRA PAYMENT FOR THESE FLIGHTS.

4. THE INSTRUCTIONS SUPPLIED TO LOT FOR THESE FLIGHTS WERE THOSE RECEIVED FROM THE DEPARTMENT. IT IS APPARENT THAT SOMETHING WAS WRONG WITH THESE INSTRUCTIONS, AND WE THINK THAT LOT WAS MISLED BY THEM. WE RECOMMEND, THEREFORE THAT THE AIRLINE BE PAID THE DOLLARS 5,000 BEING REQUESTED FOR THE EXTRA CARGO FLIGHT TO ROME. WE NOTE THAT LAPO AND ITS BAGGAGE AND INSTRUMENTS COULD NOT BE LOADED ONTO ONE AIRCRAFT IN LOS ANGELES ON NOVEMBER 16. THE SAME PROBLEM AROSE IN BUDAPEST ON NOVEMBER 24, AND YET ON NOVEMBER 29 THE JAT REPRESENTATIVE IN ROME SAID THAT ONE BOEING 707 WOULD BE SUFFICIENT FOR TRANSPORTATION FROM ROME TO ZAGREB.

5. WE WOULD APPRECIATE RECEIVING THE DEPARTMENT'S DECISION CONCERNING THIS ASAP SO THAT WE CAN INFORM MR. WYGANOWSKI. SEVERAL LOT SENIOR OFFICIALS BECAME INVOLVED IN THE LAPO TRANSPORTATION ARRANGEMENTS NOVEMBER 24-28. THE LOT OPERATIONS DEPARTMENT IS CONDUCTING AN INVESTIGATION INTO THE PROBLEMS SURROUNDING THE NOVEMBER 25 FLIGHT. MR. WYGANOWSKI WAS OF GREAT ASSISTANCE TO THE EMBASSY IN SETTING STRAIGHT THE ARRANGEMENTS FOR THE FLIGHTS TO LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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ROME FROM WARSAW. PLEASE ADVISE.
BROWN

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NNN

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